

A Pastor's Perspective

October 19, 2025 Bulletin



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The month of November closes out the liturgical year. As such, the Church focuses on the end times (the consummation of salvation history when Christ will return in glory) and the four last things (death, judgment, heaven, and hell). Our liturgical calendar includes these inevitable and unavoidable realities of our faith life in the Church's cycle of prayer:

- **All Saints Day** honors all those holy men and women who already dwell in heaven, even if they have not been canonized by the Church.
- **All Souls Day** sacrifices on behalf of our beloved dead who are in purgatory and await their entrance into the glory of eternal life.
- **Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe** anticipates the final judgment by Jesus, the just Judge, merciful Shepherd, and eternal Lord.

To commemorate our beloved dead, you are invited to take part in the following events:

- **Annual Mass for Deceased Parishioners** – St. Mary Church on Saturday, October 25, at 9:00 am: We will gather to remember and pray for all those for whom we celebrated funeral services this past year. A light reception will follow in the church hall.
- **Solemnity of All the Saints** – St. John Church on Saturday, November 1, at 9:00 am: We will gather to venerate and pray to all the saints whose fidelity to Christ has declared them “blessed.” All Saints is always a holy day; however, the Bishops of the United States have suspended the obligation to attend Mass whenever this feast falls on Saturday or Monday. Nonetheless, the Church encourages parishes to offer a Mass to celebrate the Church Triumphant (“all the saints in heaven”).
- **Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed** – All Weekend Masses on November 1 & 2: Because November 2 falls on Sunday this year, the Church invites us to observe this annual day of prayer for “all souls” at all weekend Masses, including the two Vigil Masses on Saturday evening and at all Masses on Sunday. All these Masses are an opportunity for every Catholic to practice the spiritual work of mercy of praying for the Church Penitent (“all the souls in purgatory”).

- **Musica Sacra *Requiem in Aeternam*** – St. John Church on Saturday, November 22, at 7:30 pm: Join us for a special concert of sacred music in remembrance of our beloved dead, featuring the choral and instrumental music of Gabriel Fauré: *Requiem, Opus 48*. The Chamber Choir at St. John Catholic Church will be accompanied by French horn, strings, harp, and reed organ under the direction of Dr. Kevin Birch.

As we approach the end of Jubilee Year 2025, may these special days of prayer renew the virtue of HOPE within every Christian pilgrim, especially as we – the Church Pilgrim (“all the faithful on earth”) – journey towards our eternal destiny...as we entrust our deceased loved ones to God’s infinite mercy...and as we prepare for our eventual death, personal judgment, and eternal reward.

*Peace and blessings,
Msgr. Andrew Dubois*